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such a privilege. . . ." And, if he is reminded that there are other collections to be examined, the "older man" replies, "My mental digestion is not equal to more. Pray let me remain in my comfortable home, independent of the sleeping-car conductor and porter, hotel clerk, and librarian in a strange library, the method of which, however admirable, is not the *Athenæum* method."

One is inclined to suggest the availability of this theme for the writers of future works upon historical method.

ST. GEORGE L. SIOUSSAT

Brave deeds of confederate soldiers. By Philip Alexander Bruce, LL.D.

(Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs and company, 1916. 351 p. \$1.50 net)

Making no claim to be an original contribution to our knowledge of the confederate soldier, this work presents in a popular form, suited especially for younger readers, striking but little known exploits of famous characters, as well as remarkable deeds of less widely known persons.

Of the sixteen chapters into which the book is divided, four deal with the adventures of Mosby and his partisans; two with John H. Morgan; one each is devoted to Belle Boyd, the spy; Bryan and his balloon; John Pelham; Stringfellow, the scout; the Virginia military institute cadets at Newmarket; Gilmor's raid about Baltimore; Wise's dangerous courier service, and the saving of Danville by Colonel Withers.

Perhaps the most valuable part of the book is the first chapter, which is a well-written essay on "The military influences in the old southern life." In this, Mr. Bruce shows how the secluded life of the farmer promoted an intense personal love of his native soil; while the consciousness of the deeds of pioneer forbears, the reading of such authors as Scott and Simms, the tournaments, duels, and musters promoted a military spirit. The out-of-door life led by most of the men, as husbandmen, with hunting and racing as principal amusements, fitted them for the hardships of the soldier's life. The following passage (p. 16) is typical:

"Love of one particular spot, of one neighborhood, of one state, was the foundation stone of the love of the entire region which entered so deeply into the spirit of the Confederate soldier; and men who cared nothing whatever for the political causes of the war fought just as bravely as those who did."

Written without rancor, the book has a clear, vigorous, swift and interesting style. The press work is good in the main, though the eight imaginative illustrations add little to the value of the work.

MILLEGE L. BONHAM, JR.